

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

HANS ALEXANDER,

Plaintiff,

- V -

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK POLICE DEPT,
POLICE OFFICER PALINKAS.

Defendants.

DENISE COTE, District Judge:

Plaintiff Hans Alexander has brought this pro se action seeking redress for the defendants' alleged violation of his rights. Plaintiff has submitted an application for appointment of counsel, dated September 1, 2007 and filed on September 11.

In determining whether to grant an application for counsel, the Court must consider

the merits of plaintiff's case, the plaintiff's ability to pay for private counsel, his efforts to obtain a lawyer, the availability of counsel, and the plaintiff's ability to gather the facts and deal with the issues if unassisted by counsel.

Cooper v. A. Sargent Co., Inc., 877 F.2d 170, 172 (2d Cir. 1989). As a threshold matter, in order to qualify for appointment of counsel plaintiff must demonstrate that his claim has substance or a likelihood of success. See Hodge v. Police Officers, 802 F.2d 58, 60-61 (2d Cir. 1986). In addition, in reviewing a request for appointment of counsel, the Court must

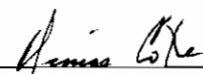
be cognizant of the fact that volunteer attorney time is a precious commodity, and thus, should not grant appointment of counsel indiscriminately. Cooper, 877 F.2d at 172.

A more fully developed record will be necessary before I can determine whether plaintiff's chances of success warrant the appointment of counsel. Therefore, plaintiff's application is denied without prejudice to its renewal at such time as the existence of a potentially meritorious claim may be demonstrated.

In his application for counsel, the plaintiff complained that he cannot afford to serve the summons and complaint. The plaintiff, who is proceeding in forma pauperis, is referred to the mailing packet that the Pro Se Office sent him on August 28 for instructions on how to request that the United States Marshal Service serve the summons and complaint at no cost to him.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: New York, New York
September 24, 2007


DENISE COTE

United States District Judge

Copies Sent To:

Hans Alexander
(241-06-15866)
North Infirmary Command
15-00 Hazen Street East
Elmhurst, NY 11370

PLEASE SEND COPIES IMMEDIATELY TO ALL COUNSEL